



## *Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter*

Volume 8, Issue #10

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

25 July 2013

### **Pest Patrol Hotline**

The information contained herein each week is available via a toll-free hotline. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Call the free number (877) 285-8525 and select the messages you would like to hear. Select #1 for updates from the Southern Region. Select #3 for the Southeast, and then select #1 to hear my message. Text alerts are also available. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

### **News from Above the Lakes**

Jacob Stokes, county agent in the Pee Dee Region, reported that “we are seeing large numbers of brown stink bugs in cotton. Most is in the first week or two of bloom with maybe quarter size bolls.”

### **News from Below the Lakes**

Jonathan Croft, county agent in Orangeburg County, reported that he “got around to several cotton fields in different areas of Orangeburg County today (24 July) and all looked to be quiet far as insects in those fields. I also looked at some group 5 and 7 soybeans today. The fields of group 5’s were loaded with kudzu bugs adults and immatures, also was picking up immature green stink bugs in these. These 5’s were R3-R4 growth stage. The 7’s had areas with kudzu bug adults and egg masses that had just hatched out (immatures still right at egg masses). Also saw a few loopers as well in the 7’s.”

### **News from the Piedmont/Upstate**

Cory Heaton, county agent in Chester, SC, reported that he “scouted a lot of beans in Chester and York this week. Kudzu bugs galore in the full season beans, most of which have been sprayed at least once. I visited a full season field in Chester yesterday that was sprayed 6 days prior, and I still found about 10 adults per plant. Interestingly, none of the fields I visited that had been sprayed had [immatures]. Worm counts were below thresholds in each location that I checked. Brian Beer (Livestock Agent) informed me yesterday that he was getting fall armyworm calls in nearby hayfields. I have yet to detect them in the soybean crop. I visited a field of full season group 5 beans in York on Monday. Beans look excellent, but the stems are extremely weak. Possible hopper injury there?”

### **Cotton Situation**

As of 22 July 2013, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had the cotton crop at about 62% squared, compared with 84% this time last year and the 5-yr average of 84%. About 14% of bolls are set, behind where we were this time last year at 33% and the 5-yr average of 32%. Conditions for the cotton crop were described as 5% very poor, 11% poor, 32% fair, 49% good, and 3% excellent. Soil moisture conditions as a whole for the state were described as 0% very short, 0% short, 49% adequate, and 51% surplus, indicating that the soils remain moist. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

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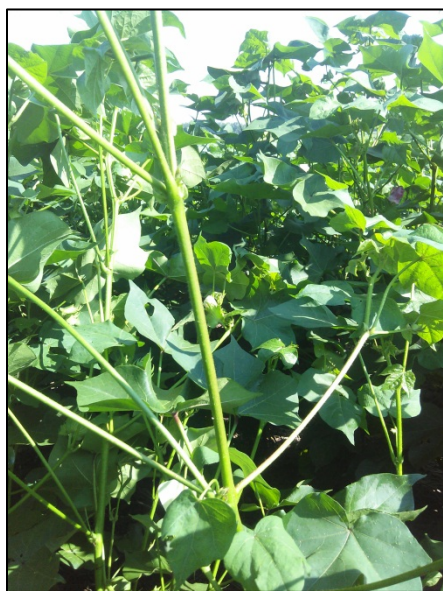
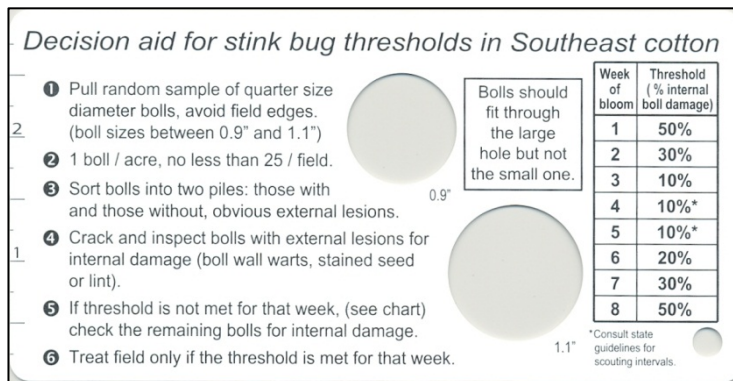
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### Cotton Insects

I don't have to tell you that we have a very strange crop out there. We have plants standing in water, either dying or not growing, and we have plants that look pretty good or rank. Most is in between those descriptions. Just like most growers, we have not been able to get ground equipment through fields here at Edisto in a timely manner, so we have some growth issues. Some plants have internodes at 8 inches or more and are extremely tall (see below). Growth regulators are definitely needed in fields with good yield potential and where still worth spending the money. These rank plants will impede insecticide delivery to protect from boll-feeding insects like stink bugs, so that is an important agronomic situation to consider for the remainder of the season regarding bug control. Much of our cotton crop is in the critical protection window for stink bugs (weeks 3-5 of bloom). Use the dynamic boll-injury threshold to manage for stink bugs by week of bloom.



### Soybean Situation

As of 22 July 2013, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had the soybean crop at 96% planted, behind where we were last year at 100% and the 5-yr average of 100% planted. About 89% of the soybean crop has emerged, behind where we were last year at 100% and the 5-yr average of 99%. About 15% of the soybean crop has bloomed, compared with 26% this time last year and 28% for the 5-yr average. Conditions for the soybean crop were described as 1% very poor, 9% poor, 38% fair, 48% good, and 4% excellent. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

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## Soybean Insects

Keep checking fields for kudzu bugs. They are there, but you will have to check to see if they are at treatment level. With this insect, you cannot assume that all fields need to be treated or not treated. There are preferences or situations that we do not fully understand yet about why certain fields are infested or largely ignored. The latest distribution for the kudzu bug in the southeastern USA can be viewed at the link below. Anytime you want to check the map, click the link below, and you will be taken to the updated map:

<http://maps.bugwood.org/eddmascustomcounty2.cfm?map=5&legend=bottom&height=600&width=550>

Also, check fields for defoliating insects (green cloverworms, beetles, soybean loopers, velvetbean caterpillar, etc.). We are starting to pick up some defoliation, with all of the above in the mix. Numbers of bollworm and tobacco budworm moths caught in traps are increasing again (see below), so check for pod-feeding caterpillars. We are also picking up many stink bugs in soybeans, so get out and look. There are building populations!

## Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm

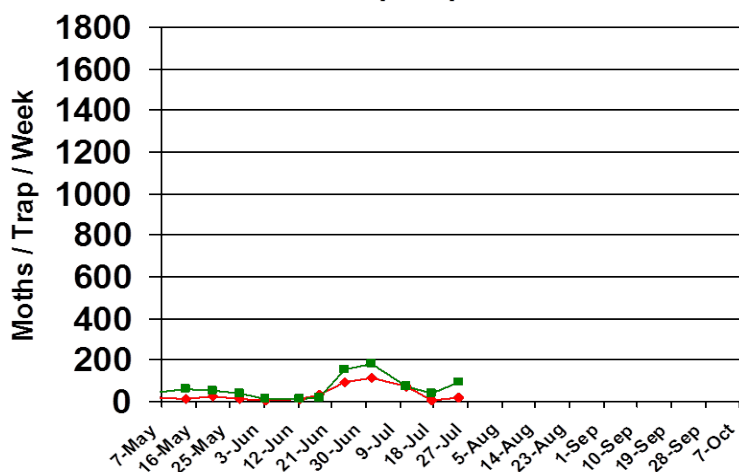


Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2012 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for a very limited number of non-Bt-cotton acres. I provide these data as a measure of moth activity in our local area as an indication of moth

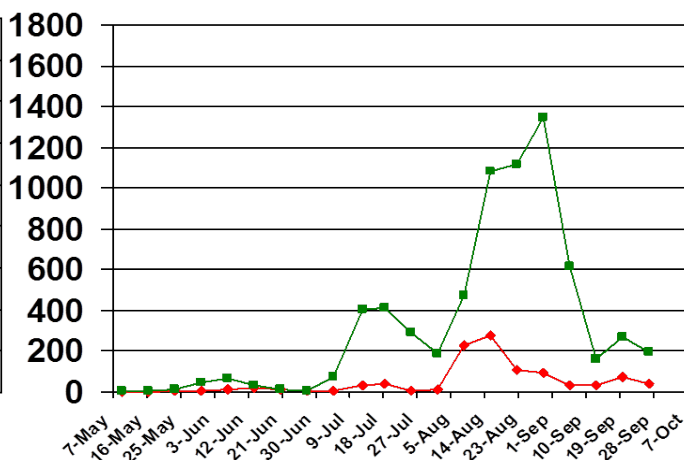
presence and activity near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2013



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2012



## Pest Management Handbook - 2013

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2013 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/>

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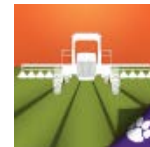
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### **Sprayer Calibration Mobile App**

Download our free mobile app called “Calibrate My Sprayer” that helps check for proper calibration of spraying equipment (available in both iOS and Android formats):

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/mobile-apps/>



### **Need More Information?**

For more Extension information: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/>

For historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

[http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest\\_management/newsletters/index.html](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest_management/newsletters/index.html)

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.  
Professor – Entomologist



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